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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193995

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ISRAEL KEEPS A CONCERNED EYE ON LEBANON

ISRAELI MFA OFFICIALS VIEW THE RECENT SYRIAN GOVERNMENTAL
CHANGES AS A REINFORCEMENT OF ASAD'S LEBANON POLICIES, AND
SEE THE SYRO-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT AS A CLEAR VICTORY FOR
THE SYRIANS. THE OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT:

--SYRIA WISHES NEITHER TO DESTROY THE PLO NOR TO CON-
TROL IT COMPLETELY, BUT RATHER TO EXERCISE GREATER
AUTHORITY OVER IT THAN ANY OTHER ARAB COUNTRY.

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--WHILE ISRAEL COULD NOT "REMAIN INDIFFERENT" SHOULD

LEBANON BECOME A PLO STRONGHOLD AND TERRORIST BASE OR BE ANNEXED BY SYRIA IN THE FUTURE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONCEIVE THAT THE PLO WILL REGAIN ITS FORMER POSITION AND RELATIVE INDEPENDENCE.

--THIS WEAKENING OF THE PLO IS A STABILIZING FACTOR IN THE REGION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT SYRIA IS PREPARED TO ANEX LEBANON OPENLY. TO THE ISRAELIS, THE TERRORIST THREAT IS PROBABLY MORE LIKELY, AND CERTAINLY MORE WORRISOME. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEL AVIV 5319, 8/3 AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) TEL AVIV 5353, 8/4.)

2. SISMİK: TIT FOR TAT IN THE AEGEAN

EMBASSY ATHENS REPORTS THAT THE GOG ON AUGUST 2 SENT AN OCEANOGRAPHIC SURVEY VESSEL, THE NAUTILUS, ON ITS FIRST VOYAGE TO THE NORTHERN AEGEAN. A GOG OFFICIAL SAID THE VESSEL, EQUIPPED WITH THE MOST MODERN HYDROGRAPHIC AND OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH GEAR, WOULD CONDUCT TESTS OF ITS ENGINES AND EQUIPMENT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE GREEK MFA AND NAVY SOURCES TOLD US THAT THE NAUTILUS' PUTTING TO SEA AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME WAS ONLY "COINCIDENTAL," IT SEEMS MORE PLAUSIBLE THAT THE GOG IS IN FACT REACTING TO SISMİK, CREATING THE PUBLIC APPEARANCE OF COUNTERING TURKISH MOVES WHILE NOT INCREASING THE POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT CONFRONTATION. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) ATHENS 7922, 8/4.)

3. JAPAN: MIKI AIDE IS UPBEAT ON LDP PROSPECTS

A LONGTIME CONFIDANT OF PRIME MINISTER MIKI TOLD EMBASSY TOKYO AUGUST 2 THAT, BARRING THE IMPLICATION OF A TOP LDP OFFICIAL OR A CURRENT CABINET MEMBER IN THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL, MIKI WILL CARRY ON THROUGH THE LATE-YEAR GENERAL ELECTION WITH HIS PRESENT CABINET. THE ADVISOR:

--RATED LDP ELECTION PROSPECTS AS GOOD AND ASSUMED THE CONFIDENTIAL

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TANAKA FACTION WOULD HOLD TOGETHER AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION; AND

--BELIEVED THE LDP WOULD RETAIN ITS LOWER HOUSE MAJORITY BUT WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE PARTY'S PROSPECTS IN NEXT YEAR'S UPPER HOUSE ELECTION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE OPTIMISTIC ASSUMPTION THAT ONLY A FEW

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS WILL BE IMPLICATED IN LOCKHEED IS SHARED--
JUSTIFIABLY OR NOT--BY OTHER MIKI CONFIDANTS WITH WHOM WE
HAVE TALKED. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 11670, 8/3.)

4. MOBUTU APPRECIATIVE OF US SUPPORT

EMBASSY KINSHASA HAS LEARNED FROM ZAIRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
NGUZA THAT MOBUTU WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE REFER-
ENCE IN THE SECRETARY'S URBAN LEAGUE SPEECH TO THE THREAT
TO ZAIRE POSED BY HOSTILE AND WELL-ARMED NEIGHBORS AND TO
PROPOSED MILITARY ASSISTANCE. MOBUTU HEARD THE SPEECH ON
VOA AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY SENT A COPY OF THE TEXT TOGETHER
WITH THE SECRETARY'S PERSONAL MESSAGE. (CONFIDENTIAL)
KINSHASA 6520, 8/4.) HABIB

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